

Ace the bar in half the time  
**Criminal Law**



# CRIMINAL LAW

## Index

<b>Part 1</b>	<b><u>Definitions, Defenses, Mental States, etc.</u></b>
Topic 1	Jurisdiction
Topic 2	Crimes that merge
Topic 3	Requirements for an act/omission of crime <i>Acts that DO NOT qualify for criminal liability</i> <i>Omissions</i> <i>Mental state</i>
Topic 4	Accomplice liability <i>Withdrawal</i>
Topic 5	Inchoate offenses and defenses <i>Solicitation</i> <i>Conspiracy</i> Definition Withdrawal <i>Attempt</i>
Topic 6	Defenses to Crimes <i>Insanity</i> <i>Intoxication</i> <i>Infancy</i> <i>Self-defense</i> Use of deadly force Use of non-deadly force New York distinction <i>Duress and necessity</i> <i>Mistaken fact</i> <i>Entrapment</i> <i>Consent</i>

**Part 2 Common Law Crimes**

- 1 Battery**
- 2 Assault**
- 3 Homicide**
  - Common law homicide*
  - Common law second degree murder*
  - Defenses
  - Common law manslaughter*
  - Involuntary manslaughter*
- 4 Rape**
- 5 Larceny**
  - Common Law larceny*
- 6 Embezzlement**
- 7 False pretences**
- 8 Robbery**
- 9 Burglary**
- 10 Arson**

**Part 3      Criminal Procedure Law**

- Topic 1      Exclusionary procedure**  
*Fruit of Poisonous Tree doctrine*
- Topic 2      Law of arrest**  
*Scale of police intrusion*
- Topic 3      Searching and seizure**  
*Government search*  
*Expectation of privacy/Standing*  
*Valid search warrant*  
*Exceptions where search warrant is not required*
- Topic 4      Confessions**  
*MIRANDA*  
*Fifth Amendment right to counsel*
- Topic 5      Pretrial Identification**
- Topic 6      Grand Jury**
- Topic 7      Miscellaneous topics**  
*Bail*  
*Notice of alibi and intent to present insanity defense*  
*Right to a jury trial*  
*Cross sectional requirement*  
*Ineffective assistance of counsel*  
*Guilty pleas*  
*Withdrawing guilty pleas*  
*Sentencing*  
*Death penalty*  
*Double jeopardy*  
*Fifth Amendment right against compelled testimony*

# Criminal Law

## PART 1

### Definitions, defenses, mental states, etc.

There are twenty questions on criminal law on the MBE/Multistate multiple choice exam.

The law cited below is the federal law, i.e., the law that will be tested on the MBE /Multistate multiple choice exam.

### Topic 1 Jurisdiction

The criminal conduct or the result of the criminal conduct must occur in a state for that state to have jurisdiction over the conduct. For a crime of omission, the state in which the act should have happened is the state that has jurisdiction.

### Topic 2 Crimes that merge

Solicitation and attempt both merge into the substantive offence. This means that if Adam commits the act of attempted larceny and then commits the actual larceny, Adam can only be charged with larceny and cannot be charged with attempted larceny as well. This is because the crime of attempted larceny has disappeared or has merged into the crime of larceny. Similarly, the act of soliciting a crime merges into the actual performance of the crime. **However, conspiring** to commit a crime **does not merge** into the actual crime. Thus one can be charged with conspiracy and the crime itself.

### Topic 3 Requirements for an Act/Omission of a Crime

A crime consists of an act or omission plus the required mental state.

#### A ACTS that DO NOT qualify for criminal liability:

- i) Acts that are not of your own volition (for example, someone pushed you)
- ii) A reflexive act (for example, epilepsy)
- iii) Acts performed while asleep or unconscious

#### B OMISSIONS

There are five circumstances where a failure to act, or an omission, is a crime:

- i) Legal duty arising by **statute**. For example, failure to file a tax return is a crime.

- ii) Legal duty arising by **contract**. For example, a lifeguard may be guilty of criminal omission if he/she stands by and does not attempt to rescue a drowning person.
- iii) Legal duty arising rising out of certain **relationships**. For example, a parent has a duty to feed a child.
- iv) Legal duty rising out of a **voluntary assumption** of a duty of care.
- v) Legal duty where your **conduct created the situation of peril**.

## C MENTAL STATE

There are four distinctions as to states of mind. Different crimes require different states of mind for criminal liability to arise.

### i) Specific intent crimes

Examples of specific intent crimes are first degree murder, obtaining by false pretenses, assault, larceny, embezzlement, robbery, burglary and forgery.

Because specific intent crimes require such strong intent, they have two defenses that other “lesser intent” crimes do not have. These are the defenses of “mistaken fact” or “voluntary intoxication.” (These defenses will be discussed in more detail below.)

### ii) Malice crimes

The only examples of malice crimes are second degree murder and arson. Malice does not mean with deliberate vicious intent but, rather, that the defendant recklessly disregarded an obvious or high risk that an event would occur.

### iii) Strict Liability

Also known as the “no-intent” crimes. The formula for a strict liability crime is that if a crime is in an administrative, regulatory or morality area of law AND the statute does not use an adverb such as knowingly, willfully or intentionally, then it is a strict liability crime. A strict liability crime is a crime where the state of intent of the defendant is irrelevant.

**NOTE:** Insanity and involuntary intoxication are defenses to ALL crimes including strict liability crimes.

### iv) General intent crimes

Rape, battery, and any other crime not in one of the above three categories, is a general intent crime.

There is also a state called “transferred intent,” which is where one aims to assault a person but misses and assaults someone else instead.

## Topic 4 Accomplice Liability

Accomplices to a crime are liable for the crime itself plus all other foreseeable crimes that occur. To be an accomplice one has to:

1. Aid or encourage or abet or counsel
2. With intent to aid in the committing of the crime.

Thus if Adam aids Ben, thinking that Ben will use a stick to hit Charlie, but, in fact, Ben kills Charlie with the stick, Adam is not liable for the murder unless it was completely obvious that Ben was going to kill Charlie with the stick. Being present and even consenting to the crime does not suffice to find accomplice liability. Even if someone aids the defendant with the knowledge that a crime **may** be committed, if he does not aid them with the intent to aid or encourage he will not be liable as an accomplice.

### Withdrawal

An accomplice can absolve himself from the crime of accomplice liability if he withdraws from the crime before it became unstoppable. If he merely encouraged the commission then repudiation suffices. If he actively aided the commission then he must try and neutralize his assistance.

## Topic 5 Inchoate Offences and Defenses

### A Solicitation

Solicitation is asking someone to commit a crime. If they agree, the crime of solicitation merges into the crime of conspiracy.

### B Conspiracy

#### i) Definition

**Conspiracy** occurs when there is an

- i) **Agreement** between two or more persons with
- ii) An **intent** to enter to an agreement with
- iii) An intent to **achieve the objective** of the agreement with
- iv) The **performance of an overt act** in furtherance of the agreement.

An agreement need not be explicitly expressed. The overt act need only be committed by any one of the participants. An example of an overt act would be showing up at an agreed meeting place to commit a crime.

Conspiracy is its own separate crime and does not merge into the resultant crime committed. Each conspirer is liable for all the crimes of co-conspirers, if crimes were committed in the foreseeable furtherance of conspiracy.

Note – a defendant cannot be found guilty based solely upon the uncorroborated testimony of a fellow conspirer.

Note also that conspiracy is different from accomplice liability. The latter requires that a crime was committed, while the former requires only an agreement to do a crime.

ii) Withdrawal from conspiracy

Withdrawing from a conspiracy cannot remove liability for the crime of conspiracy. However, withdrawal does remove the liability of the resultant crimes of co-conspirers.

**C** Attempt

One needs to have specific intent plus take a substantial step beyond mere preparation in the direction of the commission of the crime. One can be guilty of an attempted crime, even if, factually, the crime could not have occurred, if the defendant was of the belief that the crime could occur. However, where a defendant thinks that he is attempting a crime that is in reality not a crime, for example, a defendant tries to have sex with an 18-year-old with the belief that having sex with someone under 21 is statutory rape, he would not be guilty of attempted rape, because **legal impossibility cannot** constitute a crime, even the crime of attempt. **Factual impossibility can** constitute the attempted crime.

## Topic 6 Defenses to Crimes

- A Insanity
- B Intoxication
- C Infancy
- D Self-defense
- E Duress and Necessity
- F Mistaken fact
- G Entrapment
- H Consent

**A** Insanity

There are four different versions or tests for insanity:

- i) The **McNaughton** test. This is where, at the time of the conduct, the defendant lacked the ability to know the lawfulness of his actions or the ability to understand the nature of his actions.

- ii) **Irresistible Impulse.** The defendant lacked the capacity for self control or free choice.
- iii) **Durham rule.** The defendant's conduct is a product of mental illness.
- iv) **ALI Rule.** The defendant lacked the ability to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law.

## **B** **Intoxication**

There are two forms of intoxication:

- i) Voluntary (such as someone getting drunk) – This is only a defense to specific intent crimes such as murder in the first degree.
- ii) Involuntary (if someone spikes your drink) – **Reminder-** involuntary intoxication is a defense to ALL crimes including strict liability crimes.

## **C** **Infancy**

Under the age of seven there is no criminal liability.

Under the age of fourteen there is a rebuttable presumption of no criminal liability.

## **D** **Self-defense**

The “self-defense” plea can only be used in connection with the use of **deadly force** when the victim believes:

- a) he is without fault AND
- b) he is confronted with unlawful force AND
- c) he is threatened with
  - i) imminent death or
  - ii) great bodily harm or
  - iii) to prevent a violent entry made with the intent to do physical harm to an occupant of the dwelling.

**Non-deadly force**, used as reasonably appears necessary, can be used in “self-defense” any time:

- a) the victim reasonably believes that physical force is about to be used against them, OR
- b) when there is an unlawful entry or attack upon defendant's dwelling, OR
- c) to protect personal property (a watch for instance,) if oral requests would not suffice.

## **New York Distinction *plus* Minority Rule**

Where possible, the defendant has to retreat rather than use self-defense, except for three cases:

- 1) when the defendant is in his own home
- 2) when a defendant is being threatened with rape, burglary, arson or robbery

- 3) police officers do not need to retreat

The original aggressor/provoker never has self-defense open to him unless he withdraws from his original attack plus he communicates that he is withdrawing and ending the attack.

Note deadly force is any act that results in a death.

**E Duress and Necessity**

For **multistate** questions, duress and necessity are defenses to all crimes except for homicide.

**F Mistaken Fact Defense**

<b>Mental-state requirement of crime</b>	<b>Can use mistaken fact defense for</b>
Specific intent	Any mistake
Malicious + general intent	Only reasonable mistakes
Strict liability	Never

**G Entrapment**

Entrapment is an affirmative defense and can only rarely be used. It must be proved by the defendant by a preponderance of the evidence. It occurs if

- i) The idea to commit the crime was suggested to the defendant by a law enforcement officer, AND
- ii) The defendant was not predisposed to committing the crime prior to the suggestion.

However, the burden is on the defendant to show that he was not predisposed and would not have committed such a crime were it not for the police officer. The threshold for the burden of proof is very high. It must be proved beyond a preponderance of evidence. It will not suffice that the defendant was approached by a police officer. The police officer must heavily cajole him. Evidence of a defendant's prior criminal acts will go a long way towards disproving that he was not predisposed to commit this particular criminal act.

A person cannot be entrapped by a private citizen unless that citizen is operating under instructions from a law enforcement officer.

**H Consent**

The defense of consent can almost never be used.

*See following page for Common Law Crimes.*



## PART 2 Common Law Crimes

- 1     **Battery**
- 2     **Assault**
- 3     **Homicide**
- 4     **Rape**
- 5     **Larceny**
- 6     **Embezzlement**
- 7     **False pretences**
- 8     **Robbery**
- 9     **Burglary**
- 10    **Kidnapping**
- 11    **Arson**

### 1 Battery

The crime of battery is performed by striking someone.

### 2 Assault

- i)     Attempted battery - a specific intent crime OR
- ii)    Threatening battery - a general intent crime - to be guilty of this assault, the defendant must have intentionally made the victim fear he would be subject to a battery.

### 3 Homicide

#### A     Common law homicide

This covers

- a)     Second degree murder
- b)     Common law manslaughter
- c)     Involuntary manslaughter

The victim must be human. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, murder means common law/ second degree murder, which is a malice crime and therefore does not have voluntary intoxication or mistaken fact as a defense.

#### a)     **Common law/ second degree murder**

Common law or second degree murder occurs where a defendant commits an act that results in the death of another, AND

- a.     The defendant intended to kill, or

- b. The defendant intended to do great bodily harm, or
- c. The defendant committed an act carrying a substantial risk of causing death (also known as “highly reckless murder”), or
- d. The defendant intended to commit a felony.

The following are multistate defenses to common law felony murder:

- 1. The defendant must be guilty of the underlying felony (if he has a defense to the felony he has defense to felony murder).
- 2. The felony must be act other than that of murder
- 3. Deaths must be foreseeable or it is not murder.
- 4. Death caused while fleeing from a felony scene are felony murders. However, if the act of felony and the death are separated by a safety point (for example, the man rests at his home after committing the felony), then it will not be a felony murder.
- 5. The defendant is not liable for the death of a co-felon during resistance by a victim or the police.

b) **Common law voluntary manslaughter**

Common law voluntary manslaughter always involves a death caused by a provoked crime of passion. Note that a mercy killing, for example, euthanasia, can never be voluntary manslaughter and will instead be first degree murder.

c) **Involuntary manslaughter**

Involuntary manslaughter can be either

- i. Murder through criminal negligence, or
- ii. Misdemeanor manslaughter, i.e., killing while committing a misdemeanor or an enumerated felony. An enumerated felony is one of the felonies not listed as being capable of causing a felony murder.

On **multistate** questions, **first degree murder** is not a common law murder. Rather, it was created by statute. In a multistate exam, a first degree murder will either be labeled as such or a statute will be provided indicating it as a first degree murder.

## 4 Rape

The slightest penetration is rape.

Statutory rape is a strict liability crime. Consent and mistaken fact are not defenses.

## 5 Common law larceny

Requires

- i) Unlawful taking and
- ii) Carrying away of
- iii) Personal property of another
- iv) Without their consent (consent through fear is not considered consent)
- v) With intent to permanently deprive the owner of his interest in his property.

If the defendant believed he had a legal right to the property, it is not larceny.

## 6 Embezzlement

This is the  
Fraudulent  
Conversion  
Of personal property of another,  
by a person in lawful possession of property (for example, a trustee channeling trust funds for his own use.)

## 7 Obtaining property by false pretenses

Obtaining the **title** (as opposed to possession which would be larceny by trick)  
To personal property of another  
By intentional false statement of past or existing fact  
With intent to defraud another

A false promise regarding a future act does not count as the crime of false pretences.

## 8 Robbery

This is a  
Taking of  
Personal property of another  
From someone else's person or presence  
By force or threats of force to victim, family member or anyone in victim's presence  
With intention of permanent deprivation.

It is the use of force or threats that distinguish this from larceny.

### First degree robbery

- a) The defendant causes serious physical injury, or
- b) The defendant is armed or threatens the use of a dangerous weapon, or displays what appears to be a firearm. The victim must see something to believe there is a weapon - the defendant's words alone will not suffice. If it turns out the weapon was not loaded, it will reduce the offence to second degree.

### Second degree robbery

- a) The defendant is aided by another who is present, or
- b) The defendant physically injures someone, or
- c) There is a threat of immediate physical force.

### Third degree

Third degree robbery occurs whenever property is stolen by force.

## **9 Burglary**

This requires

- i) Breaking in using at least some force (opening a closed but unlocked door suffices), or fraud or intimidation
- ii) Entering (even partially)
- iii) Into a dwelling (must be a premises used for sleeping purposes)
- iv) Of another (even if they don't own the property)
- v) At nighttime
- vi) With intent to commit a felony (intent suffices, an actual felony does not need to have been carried out for there to be a burglary)

**Second degree burglary** is burglary aggravated by

- a) The building being a dwelling, AND
- b) The defendant injuring someone, OR
- c) The defendant being armed.

Note that a killing while in the commission of a second degree burglary constitutes one of the aggravating circumstances that comprise murder in the first degree.

## **10 Arson**

Arson requires the

- i) Malicious (i.e., deliberate or highly reckless)
- ii) Burning (requiring some structural damage by fire - damage must be at least charring)
- iii) Of the dwelling (though, normally, any premises will suffice)
- iv) Of another

*See following page for Criminal Procedure Law.*



## **Criminal Procedure Law**

### **Topic 1 Exclusionary procedure**

The Exclusion Rule bars evidence obtained in violation of the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendments. These violations will be explained a little later.

Let's begin with the limitations on exclusion.

- 1) The Exclusion Rule does not apply to the conduct of grand juries
- 2) The Exclusion Rule is not an available remedy in civil proceedings
- 3) In order to qualify for exclusion, the search in question must either violate the federal constitution or a federal statute.
- 4) Exclusion is not an available remedy in parole revocation proceedings.
- 5) “Good faith” defenses to the application of the exclusion rule
  - i) Where the police rely in good faith on a judicial opinion, later changed by another opinion.
  - ii) No exclusion where the police rely in good faith on a statute or ordinance later declared unconstitutional.
  - iii) No exclusion where there was good faith reliance on a defective search warrant.
- 6) Where evidence is used to impeach the credibility of a defendant or a defendant's statements, it can be used even where it violates the exclusionary rules

#### **Fruit of Poisonous Tree doctrine**

Not only is illegally seized evidence excluded, any further evidence derived as a result of the illegally seized evidence will also be excluded,

#### **unless:**

- i) The police came across the evidence independently from the illegality, or
- ii) The police can show it was inevitable that they would have discovered this evidence anyway, or
- iii) There was an intervening act of free will on the part of the defendant that resulted in the evidence being uncovered.

### **Topic 2 Law of Arrest**

Arrest warrants are not normally required when arresting someone in a public place. However, the non-emergency arrest of an individual in his own home requires an arrest warrant.

Even where the arrest takes place in a public place, the police do require probable cause to arrest anyone, or to compel a defendant to come to police station for either fingerprinting or interrogation.

- i) **Approaching a person for information** - This can be done at any time, except at a police officer's whim or caprice. A person may refuse to answer and may run away - this does not give the police probable cause to arrest.
- ii) **Common law right to enquire** - In order to question a person, the police officer must have a founded belief that criminal activity is afoot. The detention must be brief, and if the defendant gives answers, the police must release the defendant.
- iii) **Stopping and frisking** - Probable cause is not required for a brief stop and frisk; it will suffice if there is a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, supported by articulable facts.
- iv) **Arrest** - There must be probable cause that the person has committed a crime.

### Topic 3 Search and Seizure

The Fourth Amendment right protects people from illegal searches by the government. When tackling a question on searches, you have to examine the following issues:

i) **Was it a Government search?**

If not, there is no Fourth Amendment violation.

Who is the Government?

- 1 Public police (for example, not private store detectives or security unless they are deputized with a power to arrest)
- 2 Individuals acting at direction of police

ii) **Did the defendant have a reasonable expectation of privacy? (i.e., did he have standing?)**

If not, the defendant has no Fourth Amendment right.

A person **always** has standing if he lives on, or is an overnight guest on, or owns, the property that is being searched.

Passengers in cars who are not the owners of the car or the property seized from the car do not have standing to object to the seizure of property from the car.

Individuals briefly on someone else's property solely for the purpose of cutting drugs do not have standing to object to a search.

A defendant never has standing with regard to “items held out to the public.” This includes:

- i) Sound of your voice
- ii) The paint off someone’s car
- iii) Style of your handwriting
- iv) Account records held by a bank
- v) Monitoring the location of your car on the street or private driveway
- vi) Anything that can be seen across open fields
- vii) Anything that can be seen while flying over public airspace
- viii) Odors emanating from luggage
- ix) Garbage set out on the curb for collection

If it is a government search and the defendant has standing, then the government requires a search warrant.

**iii) Did the government have a valid search warrant?**

For a valid search warrant to be issued there must be

- 1) Probable cause that a crime has been committed.
- 2) The warrant must state the place to be searched and the objects to be seized.
- 3) The warrant must be issued by someone who is neutral and detached from law enforcement agencies.

Court clerks can issue warrants for violations of city ordinances.

**iv) If there is no valid warrant – there are seven exceptions where a search warrant is not required (VERY IMPORTANT)**

- 1 Search incident to a lawful arrest
- 2 Automobile exception
- 3 Plain view
- 4 Consent
- 5 Stop and frisk
- 6 Hot pursuit and evanescent evidence
- 7 Someone on probation may be searched without a warrant where there are reasonable grounds to suspect criminal activity

**1 Search incident to a lawful arrest**

The search must be contemporaneous in time and place to the arrest (i.e., limited to a search of the defendant and his wingspan (which means the distance he/she can reach for a weapon).

There must be a lawful arrest.

When a person is lawfully arrested in a car, their wingspan includes the entire interior of the car but not the trunk. The police may not look in closed bags or containers for evidence.

## **2 Automobile exception**

When police have probable cause to believe that a vehicle contains evidence of a crime, they may search the car without a warrant. They may also search the belongings of passengers inside the car. If they only have probable cause to suspect a specific bag or a specific container, they may only search the container or bag and not the whole car.

## **3 Plain view exception**

When a policeman is legitimately present, and sees contraband in plain view, they may carry out a warrantless search and seize anything they see that is suspect in plain view.

## **4 Consent**

The police may search without a warrant if they have an informed and intelligent consent.

If a police officer incorrectly claims he has a valid warrant, it negates any consent that is given. However, the police do not need to inform the person that he/she can refuse their request to search. Where two or more people have an equal right to use a property, any one of them may consent to the search

## **5 Stop and Frisk**

A police officer may search a person if he has a reasonable suspicion that the person is engaged in criminal activity. A stop and frisk is less intrusive than an arrest. The level of suspicion that is needed for an arrest (probable cause) is not required for a stop and frisk. Instead, only reasonable suspicion is required.

## **6 Hot pursuit and evanescent evidence**

If the police need to scrape under a person's fingernails, they may do so without a warrant because otherwise the defendant can wash it away. The police can enter and search any property in hot pursuit of a suspect. They may enter any property during this pursuit and not just the property of the suspect.

## **WIRETAPPING**

Wiretapping and eavesdropping are considered searches and thus require a warrant.

The exception is known as "the unreliable ear." This doctrine provides that if you talk to someone that has agreed to be wired or tapped, then your conversations can be used in evidence against you.

## 7 Someone on probation

Someone on probation may be searched without a warrant where there are reasonable grounds to suspect criminal activity

### Topic 4 Confessions

#### MIRANDA RIGHTS

For a confession to be admissible, it must be voluntary. To be considered voluntary, the defendant must be advised that he does not need to say anything and anything he does say can and will be used against him in a court of law. He must also be advised of his right to counsel, and that if he does not have counsel that one can be appointed for him. If the defendant is not warned about either his rights to remain silent or his rights to counsel, in both cases **this is a violation of his Fifth Amendment rights against self incrimination.**

For Miranda to apply, the defendant has to be in custody and there must be an interrogation, thus Miranda does not apply to spontaneous admissions. An interrogation is any conduct where police knew or should have known that they might get a damaging statement. A defendant does not waive his Miranda rights by shrugging or remaining silent. If the defendant waives his rights, the police may question him about anything they like, and not just about the crime he was arrested on suspicion of committing.

#### THE FIFTH AMENDMENT RIGHT TO COUNSEL

Once a person asserts his right to terminate the interrogation and requests an attorney, a reinitiation of interrogation by the police, without his attorney present, violates the defendant's Fifth Amendment right to counsel. The Fifth Amendment right to counsel only applies when a person asks for counsel upon hearing his/her Miranda rights.

A person who asks for counsel at any other time is invoking his Sixth Amendment rights.

### Topic 5 Pretrial Identification

There are two bases upon which you can attack a pretrial identification technique

- 1) Denial of counsel
- 2) Denial of due process. Some identification processes are so improper as to exclude in-court identification. The Government can defeat the exclusion if they can show an independent source of identification. Ample opportunity to independently observe the defendant at the time of the crime will allow in-court identification.

Post-charge lineups and show ups give right to counsel. There is no right to counsel when showing photographs.

## **Topic 6 Miscellaneous Issues**

### **Bail**

Bail issues are immediately appealable and preventive detention is constitutional.

### **Notice of alibi and intent to present insanity defense**

The defendant must notify the prosecution, within thirty days of pleading not guilty, and within twenty days after arraignment, notice of its intent to use a defense of insanity.

Within twenty days after arraignment, the prosecutor may serve the defendant with an alibi demand and if he does, the defendant has eight days to reply.

The failure to produce **Rosario** material by the prosecution calls for a reversal of the verdict.

### **RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL**

A defendant has this right whenever a maximum sentence exceeds six months.

Criminal contempt - where a defendant is sentenced in contempt proceedings, to a sentence exceeding six months, the defendant has a right to a jury trial unless the sentence was imposed during a regular trial, in which case he has no right to a jury trial.

There is no constitutional right to a twelve-member jury or to a unanimous verdict, although it is unlikely an eight-to-four conviction would survive. There must be a minimum of six jurors, and if only six are used, the verdict must be unanimous.

### **Cross Sectional Requirement**

It is unconstitutional for the prosecutor or the defense to exercise peremptory challenges on account of the race or gender of prospective jurors.

### **GUILTY PLEAS**

By pleading guilty, a defendant is waiving his Sixth Amendment right to a trial.

The Supreme Court will not disturb guilty pleas after sentencing.

The judge must advise of all of the following, on the record:

- The nature of the charge;
- The maximum and mandatory minimum sentences;

- The judge must explain to the defendant that he has the right to plead not guilty and have a trial;
- The judge must advise the defendant that if he pleads guilty, he is forgoing his right to a trial, and that proceedings will proceed immediately to sentencing.

### **Basis for withdrawing a guilty plea**

The following reasons can be used to withdraw a guilty plea:

- 1) Where the plea was involuntary, i.e., there was an misunderstanding about the nature of the plea;
- 2) Occasionally, the excuse of ineffective counsel will influence the judge to allow a plea withdrawal;
- 3) Lack of jurisdiction;
- 4) Failure of the prosecutor to keep an agreed-upon plea bargain.

### **Sentencing**

As a general rule, a defendant may not be given a harsher sentence after a successful appeal of the case.

### **Death penalty**

Any death penalty statute that does not give the defendant a chance to present mitigating facts and circumstances is unconstitutional.

No crime can carry an automatic death penalty.

A statute may not limit what a defendant may present as a mitigating factor; all relevant mitigating evidence must be admissible or the statute is unconstitutional.

### **Double jeopardy**

Under the Fifth Amendment, a defendant may not be tried for the same offence once jeopardy has attached.

Double jeopardy applies in a jury trial once the jury is sworn, in a non-jury trial when the first witness is sworn.

Double jeopardy does not normally apply to civil proceedings.

### **Double jeopardy exceptions**

- If a jury cannot agree on a verdict;
- Retrial after successful appeal by defendant;
- When a defendant breaches a plea bargain agreement, the original charges can be reinstated;

- If a case is dropped at the behest of the defendant due to technicalities that have nothing to do with the merits of the case, if the prosecution then resolve the technical difficulties, they can restart the trial.

What is considered the “same offense”?

Two crimes are not the same offense if the crimes require different elements.

If a person is tried for an offense, he/she cannot be tried for a lesser offense that in part makes up the greater offense. For example, a person cannot be retried for solicitation if has already been tried for conspiracy.

Similarly, where a person is tried for a lesser offense, he/she cannot be tried for the greater offense. The only exception is where a person is tried for battery and the victim later dies; the person can then be tried for murder.

**Fifth Amendment privilege against compelled testimony or interrogation**

No one can be compelled to give oral testimony that might be self-incriminating. Anyone can utilize this privilege, in any type of case, as long as the response may tend to incriminate them. However the state can force a person to submit body samples, such as saliva, blood or semen, etc., even though this might lead to their incrimination.

It is unconstitutional for a prosecutor to make a negative comment on a defendant’s failure to testify or on his/her silence on hearing the Miranda warnings.

However, in a civil case, a plaintiff cannot bring an action and then when asked to show that the causes of his action have been met, claim the Fifth. In other words the Fifth Amendment cannot be used as a shield and as a sword. If a plaintiff brings a suit, he has to prove that the necessary elements of an action are present. He may not hide behind the Fifth Amendment as a way out of proving his case. If he does, the case must be dismissed as he has failed to show a cause.

The Fifth Amendment right can be negated in three ways:

- 1) Where the defendant is granted immunity, he cannot plead the fifth;
- 2) Where there are no possibility of incriminations (for example, statute of limitations has run out);
- 3) If a person takes the witness stand, he/she waives his/her Fifth Amendment right.